

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168495

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, SHUM, BR, PA

SUBJECT:MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE SECRETARY TO BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR
INTERESTING AND QUICK REPLY OF JUNE 22 TO MY LETTER OF
JUNE 21.

3. OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO ME WERE YOUR COMMENTS
ON THE DIFFICULT BUT IMPORTANT QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
I NOTED ESPECIALLY YOUR ADVOCACY OF "FORMS OF POSITIVE
AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION, AS OPPOSED TO FORCED
INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS." WITH THIS IN MIND, I WRITE TO
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ASK BRAZIL'S SUPPORT IN A SITUATION WHICH INVOLVES JUST
THIS TYPE OF POSITIVE AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY INFORMED US SOME MONTHS
AGO OF ITS INTENT TO ACCEPT A VISIT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A STEP
WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL

COMMITMENT WITHIN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

5. WE ARE CONCERNED, THEREFORE, OVER RECENT INDICATIONS OF A DELAY IN THE EARLIER PARAGUAYAN DECISION. NOTING THE PARTICULARLY CLOSE AND FRANK RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY, I BELIEVE THAT BRAZIL IS IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO ENCOURAGE PARAGUAYAN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION. THIS WOULD BE A POSITIVE FOLLOW-UP TO OUR CONVERSATIONS IN GRENADA, IN WHICH YOU INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION. I AM CERTAIN THAT BRAZIL'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE INFLUENTIAL.

6. AS ALWAYS, I WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE. WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

7. UPON PRESENTING SECRETARY'S MESSAGE, EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY:

8. THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS PART OF OUR COMMON HERITAGE AND WE IN THE U.S. ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ALL COUNTRIES.

9. WE DO, AS YOU KNOW, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN VOTING ON INDIVIDUAL LOANS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. OUR POLICY IN THIS REGARD IS REINFORCED BY NATIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH STIPULATES THAT, IN ASSESSING ANY LOAN REQUEST, CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF A COUNTRY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING ITS RECORD OF COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE IAHRC AND, OF COURSE, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ARE CONCERNED BY SOME RECENT ACTIONS OF BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES CIRCUMSCRIBING POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

10. THAT BEING SAID, WE APPLAUD PRESIDENT GEISEL'S EFFORTS TO CURB ABUSES BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON WHEN CONDUCTING NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS. WE HOPE THAT THESE STEPS INDICATE A CONTINUING POSITIVE TREND. VANCE

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